

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name MEAD-ROGERS HOUSE

other names/site number 041-0020-0046

2. Location

street & number 813 NW 3RD STREET ☐ not for publication

city or town ABILENE ☐ vicinity

state KANSAS code KS county DICKINSON code 041 zip code 67410

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Parkhurst
Signature of certifying official/Title

D-SHPO

Date

5/31/00

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

MEAD-ROGERS HOUSE
Name of Property

DI(NSON COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | 1 | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | 1 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: SINGLE DWELLING

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: SINGLE DWELLING

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: ITALIANATE

MID-19TH CENTURY: ITALIAN VILLA

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

REVIVALS: COLONIAL REVIVAL

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENT: BUNGALOW/CRAFTSMAN

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: LIMESTONE

walls WOOD: WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

MEAD-ROGERS HOUSE
Name of Property

DICKINSON COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

LAW

Period of Significance

1886 - 1896

Significant Dates

1886

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

CLARENCE F. MEAD

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

MEAD-ROGERS HOUSE
Name of Property

DICKINSON COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property LESS THAN ONE ACRE

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---|---------|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title NANC SCHOLL

organization CITY OF ABILENE date DECEMBER 1999

street & number 813 N. OLIVE STREET telephone

city or town ABILENE state KS zip code 67410

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

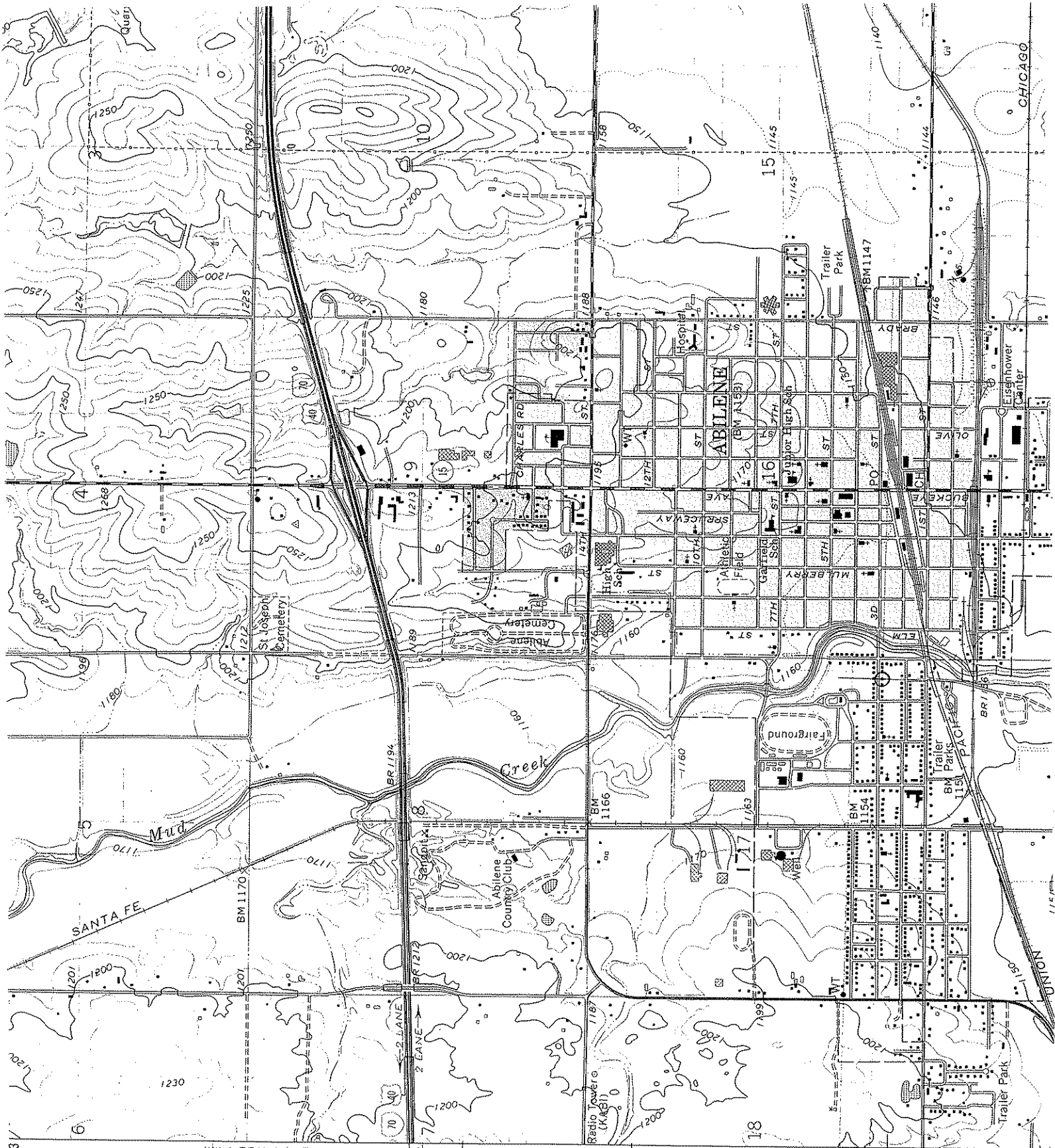
name DONALD AND EDWINA ANDERSON

street & number 813 NW 3RD STREET telephone

city or town ABILENE state KS zip code 67410

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



6561 IV NE SALINA INTERCHANGE 21 MI. (SOLOMON) 4313

USGS Coordinates
Mead Dofers
Hawse
Abilene Quad
14 653 940
4308860

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The Mead-Rogers House at 813 NW Third Street, Abilene, Kansas was built in 1886 in the Italianate style. Third Street is characterized by large detached houses of similar age and maintains its residential atmosphere. The house is a two story frame structure with a modified L-shaped plan and low-pitched gabled roof. An original two story wing on the south side has a low-pitched hipped roof, which is slightly lower than that of the main house. The house is built upon a limestone foundation with full basement and a north-facing principal facade. The north elevation measures approximately 50 feet from east to west. The east elevations measures approximately 49 feet from north to south. The exterior is clad in wood shiplap siding with a shaped shadow-line profile. Shortly after construction, a two story, two room wing was added to the west side. Later alterations include the addition of a masonry front porch, the enclosure of a back porch, and an extensive interior remodeling.

Characteristic of the Italian Villa subtype, the house has a three-story square tower in the crook of the L-shaped plan. The wings surrounding the tower project to the north and east. Other character defining elements associated with the Italianate style include wide overhanging eaves with decorative brackets, tall and narrow windows with bracketed crowns and sills, and a low-pitched gabled roof. The tower is noteworthy in that its roof is also gabled; mansard or hipped roofs are far more common. All gable faces are shingled and are east- or west-facing. All exterior door and window surrounds are wide and flush; windows are typically placed symmetrically within the wall plane. Window sash are primarily 1/1 and double-hung. The tower, windows, and corner boards all serve to emphasize the sense of verticality that is inherent in the Italianate style.

The north (principal) facade has a two story central section with two windows on each floor. Surprisingly, the roof above this section has east- and west-facing gables. This section is flanked by the three story tower on the east and the two story wing added to the west. Tower windows are centered at each floor. The west wing features an original window of a single sheet of plate glass; centered above it are paired windows on the second floor. This facade is dominated by a massive porch of complex shape and horizontal emphasis added in 1901. The tower, while still imposing, is overwhelmed by the porch's scale and limestone construction.

Despite its radical departure from the Italianate character of the house, the porch was carefully conceived and has significance in its own right. It replaced an original and smaller wood porch typical of the Italianate style. The existing porch extends across the entire North facade and a portion of the East facade. The west end of the porch is not covered; it extends as a patio for the length of the west wing addition. When built, this wing featured a curved and balustraded balcony at the second floor level.

The porch has a strong horizontal emphasis, which clearly distinguishes it from the house itself. It is built upon a foundation of irregularly coursed square-cut and rock-faced ashlar limestone consistent with that of the house. The

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porch floor is a poured concrete slab with a built-in perimeter gutter. This gutter drains through carved limestone spouts incorporated into the foundation. Limestone piers rise from the foundation; these piers match the foundation's masonry and have smooth-faced limestone caps. Monolithic smooth-faced limestone columns rest on these caps. The columns have no bases, smooth shafts, and integral ornamentally carved capitals. A continuous limestone balustrade runs between the piers. This balustrade is composed of two courses of staggered rectangular limestone blocks with a rock-faced finish. Between the blocks are square voids. This balustrade is capped with a smooth-faced limestone rail of rectangular profile.

The most dramatic aspect of the porch is its angular projection from the northeast corner of the house. This projecting portion serves as the main entry and visually reduces the apparent height of the house. The roof above this section is gabled; the proportions and details closely match those of the house, though brackets are omitted. This gable visually links the two very dissimilar styles and masses. Steps centered beneath this gable descend in a subtly winding curve. This curve allows the axis of the entry to be shifted so as to become perpendicular to the street. The tower's first floor was enlarged so as to eliminate the original L-shaped plan when the porch was added. The Northeast corner of this enlarged area is angled and parallel with the porch gable. The front door is centered in this angled section; the original entry was in one of the tower walls.

The porch slightly wraps the East facade. Here a rectangular window overlooks the porch. The window is horizontally oriented and high on the wall; it illuminates the stairwell inside the foyer. To the south of the porch is a wide bay window. It consists of four windows; the center two are paired. Originally one story in height, this bay was extended to the second floor during the 1923 interior remodeling. The detailing of this portion is surprisingly faithful to the original house. A gable is centered above the bay's low-pitched roof. The tower's east and west sides are also gabled. A door at the south end of the East facade opens into the breakfast room and is accessed by a small unpainted wood porch of recent construction. Above this area, a small second floor bathroom window cuts into the cornice and one bracket; this is probably a 1923 alteration.

The south (rear) facade is more utilitarian but incorporates many details found elsewhere on the exterior. A small and original shed-roofed extension projects from the west end. It was a service area for the kitchen. The southwest corner of this extension was originally a porch; it has since been enclosed as a mud-room. A large square chimney is located on the south facade at the west wing junction. It dates to the mid-twentieth century and has no ornamentation.

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On the west facade, a patterned brick chimney with limestone detailing on an asymmetrical base passes through the wing's gabled end. The chimney's Queen Anne character is carried through to the wing's first floor interior. Square single sash windows flank the chimney, their exterior detailing replicates the original Italianate design. The south wing of the west elevation has another small window that cuts into the cornice as on the east side.

The interior was extensively remodeled in 1923 using materials and elements, which suggest both the Arts and Crafts movement and a Colonial Revival influence. The large front door is an oak-veneered slab void of decoration. It opens into the foyer from the northeast corner of the house. Woodwork and flooring in the foyer are all oak. The L-shaped staircase rises from a bullnosed tread along the east wall. The square newel post is elaborated with shallow recessed flat panels and simple moldings in a Colonial vein. The balustrade consists of regularly spaced square balusters capped by a shaped rail. Newels occur at each turn of the balustrade which continues into the second floor hallway. The wall below the balustrade is vertically paneled with quarter-sawn oak. Panels are flat and divided at chair-rail height by a single rail. Door and window frames are plain, relieved only by a simple squared backband. Baseboards are similarly plain. They are flush and use simple quarter rounds at the floor. Above, a continuous molded oak cornice with a complex profile contains an integral picture molding. A pair of glazed pocket doors opens on the west wall to the large livingroom. These doors each have two columns of five nearly-square panes. Other first floor doors, including one beneath the stairs leading into the dining room, typically have two flat panels divided by a rail. Surviving hardware original to the remodeling is brass and shows a slight Arts and Crafts influence. As originally built, the square-towered foyer contained a spiral staircase much like those in two strikingly similar houses nearby on the same street.

The living room is symmetrically composed. Flooring, window and door casings, and cornice all match those of the foyer. A pair of iron light fixtures from 1923 illuminate the room. A fireplace is centered on the east wall. The oak mantle and mirrored overmantle are not original but relate well to the interior. It is flanked by a pair of glazed pocket doors connecting to the foyer and dining room. Opposite the fireplace is a third set of glazed pocket doors; these open to the west wing addition (library).

The library, an early addition, retains its original interior. Woodwork in this room is oak and typifies the Queen Anne style. Window and door casings are fluted and include bullseye corner blocks and shaped plinths. A segmentally arched brick fireplace centered on the west wall has an oak surround with decoratively incised scrolls. Flanking it are asymmetrically composed book cases. The southwest corner includes a small corner cabinet with a flush wood door; this cabinet rises above and projects beyond the adjacent shelving. A wainscot finishes the walls where shelving is not present. It consists of raised wood panels with chamfered rails and molded stiles beneath a molded cap at chair-rail height. The cap terminates at bullseye blocks in adjacent casings.

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The dining room is accessed through both the entry hall and the living room. The room is dominated by the large bay window in the east wall. Its finishes are identical to the living room's except for a pair of pocket doors on the south wall. These open to a spacious breakfast room and are survivors of the original interior. Typical of the Queen Anne style, each has six raised panels, two horizontal and four vertical. Stiles have chamfered edges; rails are molded.

Beyond these doors, the breakfast room's woodwork matches that of the living and dining rooms including the cornice. A single boxed beam bisects the ceiling and a large built-in sideboard with leaded glass doors is centered on the west wall. These details convey the same Arts and Crafts atmosphere found in the foyer. The sideboard is flanked by two-panel swinging doors that open into the kitchen.

The kitchen was remodeled in 1998 and features new base/wall cabinets of oak and ceramic tile countertops. The floor is covered with linoleum. Original woodwork which remains from the 1923 remodeling is of painted pine and consistent with the rest of the first floor. This includes baseboard, window/door casings, and the door to an enclosed maid's stairwell. Another enclosed stairwell beneath this leads to the unfinished basement. A small and original service room at the south end of the kitchen was previously remodeled to hold a small laundry room and a ½ bath. An adjacent original back porch has been enclosed to serve as a mud room.

The foyer's staircase leads to a hallway that runs the entire length of the house from north to south. It is illuminated by a single window at the south end and two "tower" windows at the north. A painted picture molding finishes the top of the walls in the hallway. Second floor baseboards and window/door casings match those of the first floor but are painted and probably pine. Flooring is oak. Doors themselves are from the original 1886 construction; each has four vertical raised panels. Original brass hardware, including hinges, is decoratively detailed in late 19th-century fashion. Bathrooms all feature a white ceramic tile wainscot with a matching cap. Floors are finished with small white hexagonal tiles.

On the east side of the hall is a large bedroom with a connecting closet and bath to the south. The room's bay window includes a built-in window seat. The rooms on the west side of the hall are divided by a narrow enclosed stairwell, which descends to the kitchen. To the south of this stairwell is a small bedroom with ½ bath; this was originally a maids room. The ceiling height at this end second floor is lower than that of the north end. A patched floor indicates the removal of an early east/west partition. To the north of the stairwell are two large bedrooms, each with a small closet. The northernmost room has a ½ bath in a former additional closet. Each of these rooms

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connects to a fifth bedroom to the west and directly above the library. The entire west end of this room is a large closet. The attic is unfinished.

A large three-car garage is located to the south. Like the house itself, it has been altered throughout the years. It began as a symmetrically composed two-car garage with an east- and west-facing gabled roof. Contemporary overhead garage doors are in the east wall. Originally clad in stucco, the original portion is believed to date to the first quarter of the 20th century. A late 20th century addition added another car bay to the south and extended the depth of the garage by approximately 8 feet to the west. This addition has created a "shed" style roof in which the gable ends are no longer symmetrical. This later construction is sheathed in narrow-width clapboard. The stucco of the original garage may be seen incorporated into the north wall. Here a door and two small horizontal windows survive as original fenestration. At the west end of the north wall, a door leads into the addition, which has been finished as office space. The west elevation contains a small gable vent near the roof peak and three small sliding windows. The south elevation is the most symmetrical; here an arbor-covered door is centered in the wall. Small sliding windows are roughly centered within the walls at each side of this door. The east wall has a small gable vent near the roof peak and three overhead garage doors. The pair to the north are in the original garage openings and are slightly taller than that of the added door to the south.

The highly eclectic evolution of the Mead house vividly illustrates the long-standing American obsession with current fashion. In its first 40 years the house was regularly updated and, despite the odds of doing so, successfully integrated five distinct late 19th and early 20th century architectural traditions to create a unique and memorable whole. This composite character is most significant as it physically documents several architectural movements simultaneously. It is also highly characteristic of Abilene specifically in that the majority of the city's late 19th-century houses were updated in the 20th century with remodeled porches. It is very likely that the early date of the Mead porch made it a model in the community to be emulated.

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The Mead-Rogers House is being nominated to the National Register under criteria B and C for its historical association with Clarence F. Mead (1855-1896), an Abilene attorney and businessman, and for its architectural significance as a Italianate style residence. Clarence F. Mead, a very prominent and influential attorney, built this house in October 1886. He, along with his family, lived in the home from the time the home was constructed until they sold the property in 1896. The house is one of several Italianate variants in Abilene, a community which boasts a very strong mix of architecturally intact residences from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The town of Abilene was platted in 1860 and incorporated in 1869. Between 1867 and 1872 Abilene was the center of the Texas cattle trade, after that the trade shifted west to Dodge City. By 1880 Abilene boasted a population of 2,360. The town boomed in 1887 with the arrival of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway lines, but the inflated land values began to fall the next year. By the mid-1890's Abilene had established a solid foundation for future and development.

Few houses in Abilene can claim stylistic elements as numerous and diverse as the Mead house. Its significance lies not in simply the diversity of design influences but in the quality of their rendition as well. As originally built, the house typified Abilene's upscale housing. Through consistent and regular updating, this house continued to remain current and soon overshadowed its contemporaries in terms of scale and adherence to fashion. Its role as community model continues to this day.

Characteristic of the Italian Villa subtype, the house has a three-story square tower in the crook of the L-shaped plan. The wings surrounding the tower project to the north and east. Other character defining elements associated with the Italianate style include wide overhanging eaves with decorative brackets, tall and narrow windows with bracketed crowns and sills, and a low-pitched gabled roof. The tower is noteworthy in that its roof is also gabled; mansard or hipped roofs are far more common. All gable faces are shingled and are east- or west-facing. All exterior door and window surrounds are wide and flush; windows are typically placed symmetrically within the wall plane. Window sash are primarily 1/1 and double-hung. The tower, windows, and corner boards all serve to emphasize the sense of verticality that is inherent in the Italianate style.

In an article in the Abilene Reflector on May 29, 1885, it states "Clarence Mead, our granger lawyer, is having 60 acres of raw prairie broke on one of his farms." Other articles indicate Mr. Mead owned property to the west of Abilene.

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Clarence F. Mead married Miss Juanita M. Wise on January 12, 1886, and they had one child, a daughter who was born November 30, 1886.

According to an article in the Chronicle on Thursday, October 20, 1887, the following information was given concerning Mr. Mead: "Hon. C. F. Mead, of Abilene, who was nominated by the republican convention last Monday for Judge of the eighth district, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He is a graduate of the Cambridge High School, the Chancy Hall Institute of Boston, and the Harvard Law School. He was admitted to the bar in 1874, and after practicing law for five years in Cambridge, Massachusetts, came to Kansas and settled in Abilene in 1879. Like many young men who came west, Mr. Mead was without other means than his education and experience. He at once settled down to the practice of his profession, and by close application and industry, soon acquired a good practice, which has increased from year to year, until now he occupies a proud position in the front rank among the lawyers of central Kansas."

Unfortunately he was not elected. He was beat by Nicholas, the incumbent, who did some rather dirty mud slinging during his campaign, according to articles in the Chronicle.

The abstract indicated Mr. Mead took a \$2000 mortgage October 6, 1886. The home was described in the Abilene Chronicle, October 8, 1886, as follows: "C. F. Mead's handsome new residence on West Third street is almost completed, and will be ready for occupancy about the middle of the month. It is furnished in hard pine, contains large airy rooms and all the modern improvements. It will add one more to the pleasant homes of Abilene." And then on Friday morning, October 15, 1886, the Abilene Chronicle reported, "Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Mead set up their household goods in their new home on West Third Street, on Thursday of this week." The year ended with more news about the Meads. On Wednesday morning, December 1, 1886, The Daily Gazette reported, "Born - To Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Meade, on Thursday, November 30th, a daughter."

Mr. Mead was part of the building boom that took place in 1887 in the Rogers Park addition, building several of the homes, in August, which were then rented. The Rogers Park Addition is on the west part of town, east of the railroad tracks and just south of the Central Kansas Free Fairgrounds.

Mr. Mead had a very lucrative law practice, traveling to Russell, Minneapolis, Topeka, Leavenworth, Clay Center, Council Grove, Kansas City, and Chicago, Illinois, just to name a few of the towns he practiced in. His office was located at 100 1/2 N. W. 2nd Street the current location of Royer and Royer, Chartered, Attorney's.

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In the April 20, 1889 issue of the Abilene Weekly Chronicle it was reported that C. F. Mead had been "appointed city attorney under the present administration to succeed Mr. Charles S. Crawford," who was leaving this position to return to private practice. He had a very lucrative practice. In October 1889, the Chronicle reported Mr. Mead moved his office from the Hodge block to rooms west of Kirby's bank.

By August 1898, Mr. Mead had decided to move to Kansas City. "C. F. Mead had flashlight photographs taken of the principal rooms in his house before removing the furniture. They will be mementos of Abilene," so stated an article in the Daily Reflector on August 20, 1898.

Mr. Mead, who was born on July 21, 1855, continued to practice law in Abilene until he moved to Kansas City in 1898 and later to Los Angeles, California, where, on October 5, 1933, he died at the age of 78. His widow, Juanita M. (Wise) Mead and their daughters survived him.

The home was purchased by George Rogers (April 6, 1862 - March 10, 1928), a widower with three children, in December 1901. Mr. Rogers was the President of Abilene National Bank. Shortly thereafter he married Della Brown, the sister of C. L. Brown of United Telephone, who was a teller at Abilene National Bank. They had a son, Reynold.

Mr. Rogers came from a farming background, coming to Dickinson County with his parents in 1871. In 1889 he came to Abilene where, over the years, he filled many positions of honor and trust. He was the receiver for the Salina State Bank, the First National Bank of Abilene, and the Abilene Waterworks and Electric Light Company. In 1900 he was named President of the Abilene National Bank, a position he held until his death in 1928, and in 1905 of the Dickinson County Building and Loan Association.

The city water was from wells and the creek, which were insufficient for the towns needs. Mr. Rogers bought twelve acres of land, which included Sand Spring, for \$85,000. The city voted the bonds and secured the finest system of water in the state at that time, almost as a gift. Mr. Rogers sold the water supply to the city of Abilene for exactly what he paid for it, \$85,000. This water supply has continued to provide water for the City of Abilene residents.

While the Rogers owned the house, they bought the west end of two lots on Vine Street and diverted the alley to the east of the house. This gave room to add the massive front porch that angels to the east that is seen today on the structure. The work was completed just prior to February 1908, which, at that time Della sent picture postcards of the house to friends to show the finished product. Also in 1908, the addition to the west was constructed which included a library on the main floor and a bedroom on the second floor and the downstairs parlors were combined to make one large room.

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In 1924 a complete remodeling of the house was done: new windows, oak flooring, bathrooms, staircase and foyer, and other improvements.

Upon George Rogers death, his son moved into the house (where his mother still resided) with his wife Pauline and their two children until 1949 when they moved to Arizona. Reynold, who followed his father as President of the Abilene National Bank, died in 1950.

Della Rogers, widow of George, lived in the house until her death in 1967.

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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abilene City Directory, 1886. Abilene, Kansas, Dickinson County Historical Society.

Anderson, Donald & Edwina, owners 1992 to present, personal notes.

Biggs, Shiela, owner 1976 to 1992, personal notes.

Dickinson County Historical Society obituary files, Dickinson County Historical Society.

Dickinson County, Kansas Abstract of the property, Dickinson County Historical Society.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on Lot 112, and the east ½ of Lot 114, Lebold's Second Addition to the City of Abilene, Kansas. Street address is 813 North West Third Street, Abilene, Kansas. The property is bounded on the east, south, and west by adjacent property and on the north by North West Third Street.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the entire parcel historically associated with the house.